



**COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES
DEPARTMENT OF AUDITOR-CONTROLLER**

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April 8, 2009

TO: Supervisor Don Knabe, Chairman
Supervisor Gloria Molina
Supervisor Mark Ridley-Thomas
Supervisor Zev Yaroslavsky
Supervisor Michael D. Antonovich

FROM:

Wendy L. Watanabe
Auditor-Controller

SUBJECT: **GROUP HOME PROGRAM MONITORING REPORT – TURMONT
HOME FOR BOYS/GIRLS – TURMONT HOME FOR GIRLS GROUP
HOME**

We have completed a review of Turmont Home for Girls Group Home (Group Home or Agency) operated by Turmont Home for Boys/Girls. The Group Home contracts with the Department of Children and Family Services (DCFS) and the Probation Department (Probation).

Turmont Home for Girls Group Home is a six-bed facility, which provides care for girls ages 13-17 years who exhibit behavioral, social and emotional difficulties. At the time of the monitoring visit, the Group Home was providing services for six DCFS children.

The Agency is located in the Fifth District.

Scope of Review

The purpose of the review is to determine whether the Agency is providing the services as outlined in their Program Statement. In addition, the review covers basic child safety and licensing issues and includes an evaluation of the Agency's Program Statement, internal policies and procedures, child case records, employee records, a facility inspection and interviews with children placed in the Group Home at the time of the review. Interviews with children are designed to obtain their perspectives on the

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program services provided by the Agency and to ensure adherence to the Foster Youth Bill of Rights.

Summary of Findings

Generally, the Agency is providing the services as outlined in their Program Statement, except for one deficient area. The Group Home needs to provide sufficient tutoring to meet all children's educational needs and to ensure all children are progressing satisfactorily in school.

Attached is a detailed report of the review.

Review of Report

We discussed our report with the Agency's management. In response to the recommendations made in the report, the Agency's management completed a corrective action plan (attached) which we approved. We thank the management and staff for their cooperation during our review.

If you have any questions, please contact me or have your staff contact Don Chadwick at (213) 253-0301.

WLW:MMO:DC:AA:dl

Attachments

c: William T Fujioka, Chief Executive Officer
Patricia S. Ploehn, Director, DCFS
Ted Myers, Chief Deputy Director, DCFS
Susan Kerr, Senior Deputy Director, DCFS
Robert B. Taylor, Chief Probation Officer
Rhonna Carroll, President of the Board, Turmont Home for Boys/Girls
Ora Quaynor, Executive Director, Turmont Home for Boys/Girls
Public Information Office
Audit Committee

**Turmont Home for Boys/Girls
Turmont Home for Girls Group Home
Lancaster, California 93535
License Number: 197600325
Rate Classification Level: 8**

I. Facility and Environment

Method of assessment – Observation

Comments:

Turmont Home for Girls Group Home is located in a residential community. The exterior of the Group Home is well maintained. The front and back yards are clean and adequately landscaped.

The interior of the Group Home is well maintained. The common quarters are neat and clean. There is adequate furniture and lighting in the Group Home. The Group Home provides a home-like environment.

Children's bedrooms are well maintained. The rooms are clean and orderly and have age-appropriate personalized decorations. There is adequate furniture, lighting and storage space. Window coverings and window screens are in good repair. The mattresses are comfortable, and the beds all have a full complement of linens. Children's sleeping arrangements are appropriate.

The Group Home maintains age-appropriate and accessible recreational equipment. There are also board games, a TV and a VCR player. Books and resource materials, including a computer with a variety of programs, are also available.

The Group Home maintains a sufficient supply of perishable and non perishable foods.

Recommendation

There are no recommendations for this section.

II. Program Services

Method of assessment – Review of relevant documents and interviews

Sample size: Two

Comments:

Children meet the Group Home's population criteria as outlined in their Program Statement. Children are assessed for needed services within thirty days of placement.

The treatment team develops and implements the Needs and Services Plans (NSPs) with input from the child. The NSPs are current, comprehensive and include short and long term goals.

Case files reflect adequate documentation to show that children are receiving treatment services.

Recommendation

There are no recommendations for this section.

III. Educational and Emancipation Services

Method of assessment – Review of relevant documents and interviews

Sample size: Two

Comments:

Children are attending school. The Group Home's program includes the development of children's daily living, self-help and survival skills. However, one child is not being provided with sufficient educational support and resources such as tutoring. As a result, the child is not progressing satisfactorily in school.

Children are provided with opportunities to participate in emancipation and vocational programs as appropriate.

Recommendation

- 1. Turmont Home for Boys/Girls management provide sufficient tutoring to meet all the children's educational needs and to ensure all children are progressing satisfactorily in school.**

IV. Recreation and Activities

Method of assessment – Review of relevant documents and interviews

Sample size: Two

Comments:

The Group Home provides children with sufficient recreational activities and leisure time. Children are provided with opportunities to participate in planning activities. Children also participate in extra-curricular, enrichment and social activities in which they have an interest. The Group Home provides transportation to and from the activities.

Recommendation

There are no recommendations for this section.

V. Psychotropic Medication

Method of assessment – Review of relevant documents

Comments:

According to the Agency's management, there are currently no children taking psychotropic medications. This information is appropriately documented.

Children are aware of their right to refuse medication.

Recommendation

There are no recommendations for this section.

VI. Personal Rights

Method of assessment – Interviews with children

Sample size: Two

Comments:

Children are informed about the Group Home's policies and procedures. Children report that they feel safe in the Group Home and are provided with appropriate staff supervision. Children express satisfaction with the quality of their interactions with staff and report that the staff treats them with respect and dignity.

Children report that they are assigned chores that are reasonable and not too demanding. Children are allowed to make and receive personal telephone calls, send and receive unopened mail and have private visitors. Children attend religious services of their choice.

Children report that the discipline policies are consistently enforced and that there are fair and appropriate consequences for inappropriate behavior.

Children report satisfaction with meals and snacks. Children also receive voluntary medical, dental and psychiatric care.

Recommendation

There are no recommendations for this section.

VII. Clothing and Allowance

Method of assessment – Review of relevant documents and interviews

Sample size: Two

Comments:

The Group Home provides appropriate clothing, items of necessity and the required \$50 monthly clothing allowance to children. Children are provided with opportunities to select their own clothes. Clothing provided to children is of good quality and of sufficient quantity.

The Group Home provides children with the required minimum weekly allowance and children spend their allowances as they choose.

The Group Home provides children with adequate personal care items. Children are also encouraged and assisted in creating and maintaining photo albums/life books.

Recommendation

There are no recommendations for this section.

VIII. Personnel Background Checks

Method of assessment - Review of relevant documents

Sample size: Four

Comments:

The Group Home has obtained the required criminal and child abuse clearances for their employees.

Recommendation

There are no recommendations for this section.

TURMONT HOME FOR BOYS/GIRLS

A HOME FOR CHILD NURTURE, CARE & DEVELOPMENT
COMMITTED TO AN EXCELLENT HOME ENVIRONMENT

October 30, 2008

County of Los Angeles
Dept. of Audit - Controller
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REF: **TURMONT HOME FOR BOYS/GIRLS**
1519 E. Thomas Drive
Lancaster, Ca. 93535
License No. 197600325
Rate Level 8
CORRECTIVE ACTION PLAN (GIRLS SITE)

III. EDUCATIONAL AND EMANCIPATION SERVICES

Turmont Group Home will immediately arrange tutoring for all placed residents whose basic skills are below grade level to the extent that these services are available at the facility or from any after school programs that can offer the necessary assistance to help academic achievement and progress in developing educational programs that will help each resident maintain a specific academic level. These services will also be specified in the Needs and Service Plan.

Ora Quaynor, Administrator and Robbie Bennett, Facility Manager will assure that Tutoring and Treatment Services are provided according to the Program Statement that was designed for Turmont Home for Girls. Both will also oversee the corrective action plan from beginning to end.



Ora Quaynor, Administrator